



VolunteerBloomington!

Nov. 4, 2015

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: *"The ability to think straight, some knowledge of the past, some vision of the future, some skill to do useful service, some urge to fit that service into the well-being of the community - these are the most vital things education must try to produce."* ~ Virginia Gildersleeve

Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering

Give back this holiday season! Use the *Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering* to connect to opportunities for service and giving - many are great for families and people of all ages! Keep in mind that many "day-of" holiday volunteer opportunities fill up fast. Keeping your dates flexible and understanding that your help will be most needed just before and after the formal holidays will give you more options to connect to service. Questions? Please contact Bet Savich at volunteer@bloomington.in.gov or (812)349-3472. (BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org/Holidays)

Annual Holiday Market – Nov. 28

You can participate in the annual Holiday Market on Sat., Nov. 28 on the Showers Plaza as a volunteer elf! Volunteers will decorate, serve refreshments, and then assist with teardown. Patrons will shop for their favorite locally grown farm products and fine local arts and crafts while listening to the music of the season, including the TubaSantas. Santa and his reindeer will be there as well! Volunteer shifts are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or noon to 4 p.m. Minimum age is 16. Please contact Julie Ramey, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, at (812) 349-3739 or parksvol@bloomington.in.gov. (www.bloomington.in.gov/parks)

Christmas for the Kids

Formerly known as Toys for Tots Monroe County, Christmas for the Kids, Inc. wants to ensure that every local child receives a toy this holiday season. Beginning the day after Thanksgiving and continuing through Dec. 16, new toy donations will be accepted at locations around town — such as The Herald-Times, Black Lumber, Liberty Family Dentist, Rural King, and Cummings Bookkeeping in Ellettsville. Volunteers are asked to help with the live auction on Dec. 6, prepping the distribution location, sorting donations on 'bag and tag' day, shopping for toys with donated funds, placing reminder calls to recipients, and helping on toy distribution day - Dec. 19. Please contact Bob Sutter at (812) 961-0552 or rsutter208@aol.com (www.rsutter208.wix.com/online-fundraising)

Amethyst House Donation Drives

Volunteers are invited to assist in coordinating donation drives for Amethyst House, which provides addictions recovery services. Holiday items such as decorations, trees, ornaments, and lights are requested by Dec. 1 — please, no candles. Amethyst is requesting ham, turkey, and veggies, serving platters and serving utensils by Dec. 12 for their holiday meal. A gift drive will continue through Dec. 19th with requests for personal hygiene products, bath towels, blankets, hats, gloves, or scarves. Please contact Gina Lovell at (812) 336-3570 ext. 203 or glovell@amethysthouse.org. (www.amethysthouse.org)

Holiday Season Meals

The days surrounding the actual holidays are the times of most need for Community Kitchen. Please consider taking a shift on one of these "off" days. The prep shift, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., prepares cold carry-out meals for distribution at a variety of locations, prepares lunches for after-school programs, and helps with preparation of the dinner meal. The serving shift, from 3:30-6:30 p.m., involves serving dinner 'cafeteria style' and doing some light clean-up. Each shift has seven openings - perfect for individuals and small groups. Meals are served Mon. through Sat. When inquiring, please provide a phone number where you can be contacted. Donations of turkeys, hams, canned vegetables and fruit are also needed and appreciated, and can be dropped off at their 1515 S. Rogers location, Mon.-Fri. between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Minimum age is 14; 10 if with an adult. Please contact Debbie Hopson at (812) 332-0999 or debbie@monroecommunitykitchen.com. (www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network is your source for information about volunteering locally. For a complete listing, visit BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org or call 812-349-3433. The inclusion of an organization in this list does not imply City endorsement or support of the organization's activities or policies.

Community Wish List Spotlight

Bloomington Community Orchard

Devoted to growing fruit for the community to share and enjoy. To grant a wish, contact Amy Roche at (812) 345-4008 or outreach@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org. (2120 S. Highland Ave.; www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)

Wishes: portable projector with screen, reversible chalk/dry-erase board, guttering, rain barrels, pruners, trowels, hoes, hedge shears, garden tractor/trailer, solar-powered generator, picnic tables/benches, first aid kit

Use the Community Wish List to start a drive within your school, faith community or other group, or purchase a couple of items yourself. It WILL make a difference to those served by this organization.